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The Secretary of Defense

I asked the Board of National Estimates for its views on the Ussuri River conflict since the propaganda treatment in both the Soviet Union and Communist China changed dramatically after the 2 March incident. This paper 1) briefly reviews known facts, 2) speculates as to the motives of the parties, 3) estimates that it will not escalate into formal war, and 4) judges it to be an episode rather than a turning point in Sino-Soviet relations.

Richard Helms

Attachment - 1

25X1 [redacted] - The Clashes on the Sino-Soviet Border.

24 March 1969

Identical memos w/att. Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger.

cc: C/BNE

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